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3012 C. I. O.  
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Shanghai Municipal Police.

CENTRAL POLICE Station.

3rd November 1919.

REPORT ON Zaahn and Russian Newspaper called Shanghai Life.

Made by D. S. I. Givens.

Forwarded by *Office of Chief Detective Officer*.

Sir,

D. S. I. Givens called at the Netherlands Consulate on 29th September, and asked if Zaahn was a Dutch subject and whether he was favourably known at the Consulate. The Acting Consul General replied to both questions in the affirmative. Nothing was said which could possibly have caused the Consul General to write a letter about Zaahn possessing an unauthorised certificate.

According to the latest issues of Shanghai Life, Zaahn is still its de jure editor. Inquiries go to show that it is still printed by the Mercantile Printing Co., No. 26 Weihaiwei Road, and is published at No. 291 Avenue Joffre.

*ADM*  
11/10  
I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*D. S. I.*

D. S. I.

C. D. O.

P.O. 3012.

Special Branch Registry

File No. 40-112



SUBJECT

New publication in Russian called "S'koulife".

Names involved:

Gualtherus H. Zahn, Netherl. Subject  
Gr. F. Semashko.

# Memorandum.

MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CHIEF DETECTIVE OFFICER.

Shanghai,

30/10/1918

I. O.

Tel. No. C. 743.

- (1) Did we ask the Netherlands Consul General anything which would cause him to write the letter re John possessing an unauthorized certificate?
- (2) According to todays issue of "Shanghai Pipe" John is still Editor!
- (3) Is the office still in Wei-Lai Wei Road?
- (4) File re Shanghai Pipe & John wanted for A.Q. tomorrow

Copy.

C. R. File  
7408

3012  
29.10.19

Shanghai,, 27th October 1919.

Sir,

On August 28th a document, of which I enclose a copy was issued by this Consulate General to Mr H.H. Zahn who intended to edit a newspaper.

Please note that said document was issued erroneously, and has been destroyed, the Law not providing for any permit, license, certificate or other document, to be required for the purpose of editing or printing newspapers, books, or otherwise.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sd) J. A. Shuurman,

Consul,

temporarily in charge of the  
Netherland Consulate-General.

N. O. Liddell, Esq.

Secretary,

Municipal Council.

3012  
FILED  
10.10.19

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

CENTRAL POLICE Station.

7th Oct. 1919.

## REPORT ON Editorial Staff of Shanghai Life.

Made by D.S.I. Givenes

Forwarded by Office of Chief Detective C. I. D.

Sir,

Enquiries regarding the staff of the Russian paper called Shanghai Life go to show that G.G. Zaahn, No. 291<sup>A</sup> Avenue Joffre, who accepts the responsibilities connected with the editorship, is a Dutchman. He came to Shanghai in 1915, since when he has been employed with Olivier & Co., No. 16 Museum Road.

G. Semeskov, who is editor in the real sense of the word, is a Russian. He arrived in Shanghai on April 9th 1919. He is said to have gained some notoriety in Vladivostock for extremist ideas, and began to consort with people suspected of Bolshevik sympathies soon after arriving here. Semeshko started a newspaper in Russian called the "Shanghai Chronicle" on June 29th 1919. It published seditious articles in its first issue and was suppressed on July 1st.

The other names given as belonging to the editorial staff are noms de plume of Semeshkov.

The "Shanghai Life" is printed by the Mercantile Printing Co., No. 26 Weihaiwei Road.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. Givenes

D.S.I.

C.D.O.

(11)  
31/10

Shanghai Municipal Police.

3012  
9. 10. 19

CENTRAL POLICE Station.

26th September 1919.

REPORT ON New Publication in Russian called "Shanghai Life".

Made by D. S. I. Givens.

Forwarded by Office of Chief Detective Officer.

Sir,

I beg to report that a weekly paper in Russian called "Shanghai Life" is on sale in various news agents' shops in the Settlement.

I am attaching a copy of the first issue of this paper, but it has not yet been <sup>scrutinised</sup> translated, owing to the illness of D. S. Schmidt.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. I.

C. D. O.

29. 9. '19

Sir,

A translator has been engaged in accordance with instructions, and he has compiled a synopsis in English of the matter on which the paper treats. This is attached herewith. Enquiries are being made about the editorial staff.

Your obedient servant.

D. S. I.

3012  
9. 10. 19

Names of the Editorial Staff of the New Russian publication  
called "Shanghai Life" and a synopsis of its contents.

September 21st 1919

Shanghai Life.

Editor G. G. Zaahn (Residing at 291 Avenue Joffre)

Editorial staff:- A. N. Bairdouyny

M. B. Vyslensky

I. I. Gnnorsky

Gr. F. Semeshko and others.

A Social, Political and Industrial Journal.

The leading article.

It is our hope to create in Shanghai an independent, progressive Russian gazette. Our task, however, as may be seen from the fate of the "Shanghai Chronicle", is very difficult. The worst phase of the predicament in which we find ourselves is the lack of definite laws and regulations for our guidance. Our paper will have to submit to the personal views of narrow administrators who are not equal to their positions. We cannot help this state of affairs and must act as newspapermen had to do in the time of the censorship. We can give a hint of what our thoughts are. We must state openly to our readers, that Russians did not enjoy liberty of the press, even in Chinese territory, where other nations can frankly discuss all sorts of questions. The ever watchful eye of the Russian police penetrates everywhere and Shanghai is no exception. As this "eye" must be taken into consideration, we are obliged to use the language of Ysop (fable language) in order to preserve our paper.

Our aims, our problems ..... are clear. We are trying to provide for the Russian emigrants who are in Shanghai and in China generally a good independent, progressive, democratic and impartial paper.

We are doing our best, and it is up to the readers, if they approve of our aim, to support us in our enterprise.

We shall also introduce into our paper an industrial section for the purpose of fostering commercial relations between Russia, China and the Dutch Indies.

Reuter's Telegrams.

A report on the suppression of the Shanghai Chronicle, how the editor was sued in the Russian Consular authorities and fined Rbls 50. and how the Russian Mission in Peking nullified the verdict of the Consular Court.

A treatise on the magazine "Life in the East" in which the editors are compared to the agents of Chinese prostitutes, who are to be seen nightly on Foochow Road, ~~containing~~ <sup>dirty</sup> pornographic articles and pictures.

Local Russian News.

News from Siberia as reprinted from various Siberian papers in Russian.

Case in the Russian Consular Court:

Count Lautrec Savine de Toulouse.

You have a file  
about him.  
Mine.

11/11/19

Page No 1 contains  
" 2 "

Page 3 contains

Page 4 contains

" 4 "

Copy.

G. Q. File  
7408

30/2  
29/10/19

No. 5347.

The undersigned states that this Consulate General has no objection that Mr Gualtherus H. Zahn, Netherlan's subject, living in Shanghai, starts there the publishment and the printing of a paper in the Russian language, tending to thwart bolshewism in Russia and to favour a purely democratic government as the one represented at the moment by the rule of Admiral Koltchak and General Denikine. The principal aim of the said paper will be the development of the commercial relations between Siberia, China, the Netherlands and Netherland colonies. The name of the paper, which has been registered at the Chancery of the Consulate General, will be "Shanghai Life" (             ).

Secretary of Legation,  
in charge of the Consulate General  
(signed) W.J. Quarles Van Ufford.

Shanghai, August 28, 1919